

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6308

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: SEISMIC EXPLORATION SHIP IN AEGEAN

1. CHIEF OF SECOND STAFF OFFICE (INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN LIAISON), HELLENIC NAVY (HN) TODAY, NOVEMBER 18, BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF USDAO HN CONCERNS ABOUT PRESENCE IN AEGEAN OF SHIP SEISMIC EXPLORER FLYING AMERICAN FLAG. HN OBSERVED SHIP AT 171500 AT 37 DEGREES 05 MINUTES N 26 DEGREES 50 MINUTES E AND AT 172350 AT 36 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N 27 DEGREES 52 MINUTES E, FOLLOWING WHICH HN LOST TRACK OF IT. HN ASKED DAO IF SEISMIC EXPLORER IN FACT OF AMERICAN REGISTRY, WHETHER IT CHARTERED TO USG OR AMERICAN FIRM, AND IF CHARTERED BY FOREIGN FIRM, OF WHAT COUNTRY? HN WAS CLEARLY QUITE CONCERNED AND ASKED FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPLY.

2. COURSE OF SEISMIC EXPLORER INDICATED BY SIGHTINGS SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY THAT ACTIVITY CONTEMPLATED IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF/OR NEAR CYPRUS. GOG CLEARLY WOULD BE CONCERNED IF THIS TURNED OUT TO BE CASE. EQUALLY WORRISOME WOULD BE EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN AEGEAN UNDER CHARTER OF TURKISH FIRM. WHATEVER COMMERCIAL

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AFFILIATION SEISMIC EXPLORER MIGHT HAVE, WE BELIEVE IT VERY

IMPORTANT TO DISPEL ANY MISCONCEPTION THAT SHIP AFFILIATED WITH
USG, IF THIS INDEED TRUE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BASIS
FOR USDAO REPLY TO HN.
KUBISCH

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